

Director's Report December 2022



Reference Services

- The Reference Department hosted a number of programs in November, including the monthly Cookbook Club and Book Discussion groups, a talk about making a true crime podcast, a film talk on *Twenty Classic Horror Movies and Why They Are Good for You* by Randall Warniers, and the weekly Thursday morning meditation program, which continues to attract over 20 meditators every Thursday morning.
- Local author Irena Kowal presented an author talk on November 10, in which she discussed her novel *Displaced*. The novel is based on true events and follows Irena, brought up in the United States, and her older brother Orest, who was left behind in Soviet Ukraine as their parents escaped during WWII.



- Reference staff answered 193 general reference questions and helped 87 patrons with technology issues. Staff also booked 141 meeting rooms during the month of November.
- Staff processed 20 incoming inter-library loans from libraries across the country and returned 20 outgoing loans.
- Staff attended the ALA Sustainability Book Club, in which there were 100 participants from around the United States. Reference staffer Reni Cunningham applied to this program and was accepted.
- Multiple staff members attended WebGIS map training with the Town.

Youth Services

Teen Lounge

November in the Teen Lounge was busy, despite the holiday. Teen Dungeons and Dragons kicked off to a rousing and adventurous start with over 20 initial attendees. Popcorn on Tuesdays and boardgames on Thursdays kept students entertained as they prepared for finals and anticipated their winter break. Artist Margaret McCandless led two popular watercolor workshops that sent teens home with their very own bookmark creations.

Children's Library

The Children's Library continued extremely successful regular programs, including Musical Mondays, Alphabet Storytime, Crafty Storytime, Storytime at the Main Library, and Concord Puppet Theater. In addition, there were a few standout programs from November, including the Adopt a Reading Pal Graduation. Pomp and Circumstance was played for the graduates and diplomas were distributed to the children in attendance. Over the course of the 6 week program, 263 people were involved in various activities. Parents reported that their children became more avid readers and one little girl developed a deeper understanding and care for pet adoption.

Another standout program in November was the Commonwealth Ballet Company reading and performance of *The Nutcracker*. On November 15 over 130 people gathered into the Goodwin Forum to enjoy the Commonwealth Ballet Company's reading of *The Nutcracker*. The dancers posed for pictures with children after the performance.



Circulation

In the previous month, the Circulation Team:

- Welcomed over 50 new patrons.
- Processed 127 museum pass reservations, the New England Aquarium and the Museum of Science being the most popular.
- Created displays featuring titles about war veterans, memoirs, and an interactive mystery display.
- Attended staff webinars about making community connections (via School Library Journal), soft skills (via the Massachusetts Library System), and LibraryCon Live! (via Library Journal).

Program Type	# of Programs	# of Attendees
In-Person	57	696
Virtual	8	63
Take-Home Activities	6	389
Drop-In Crafting and Guessing Games	N/A	104
Totals	71	1,252

- Fowler has begun hosting regular language-based programs, including the volunteer-led ESL Conversation Circle for adults and Musical Mornings with Ricardo, a music class for children in English and Spanish.



- Many happy families attended an Early Morning PJ Storytime on November 19 with muffins, coffee, and hot chocolate donated by Debra's Natural Gourmet and Equal Exchange. This storytime was offered in conjunction with the return of the West Concord Early Bird Special/PJ Day.
- Girls Who Code (GWC) is thriving this year, with a robust team of facilitators and dedicated club members. GWC offered a mini-challenge and the club completed a [project on cybersecurity](#) in just 4 weeks; club members created a website using html and style sheets, as well as performed in skits which they edited and then embedded into their website. Club members are still brainstorming their project for the year, and seem interested in wearable technology, which may open exciting collaboration opportunities with the Workshop.
- Staff created displays featuring new cookbooks, books by indigenous authors for Native American Heritage month, NaNoWriMo, and books and DVDs for Veterans Day.
- Fowler now has a Family Tree from the Concord Museum surrounded by the featured picture books.
- Staff have embraced professional development opportunities, attending classes taught by the Massachusetts Library System and workshops from Central Site.

Special Collections

- In the previous month, Special Collections served 55 on-site researchers and answered 65 reference requests on-site via phone and email.
- Special Collections staff continue to meet weekly with the Concord Museum's curatorial team to develop and design the joint 2023 exhibit featuring highlights from the Library's art collection. Exhibit preparations continue, including writing object labels and exhibit text panels for the Daniel Chester French exhibit, also planned for 2023.

Communication & Innovation

- The Workshop's A/V Lab is now home to three amazing new Amaran lights and softboxes, chosen with guidance from the staff at Minuteman Media Network.



- More large-scale orders are in process or on their way, including a Glowforge Pro laser cutter, two Robo E3 Pro 3D printers, five Bernette sewing machines, a computerized embroidery machine, and a laptop cart full of Macbook Pros.

Administration and Staffing

- The Main Library's hours have been extended. The Main Library reopened on Sundays from 1pm to 5pm starting December 4th.
- The Library welcomed three new Library Assistants who are working on Sundays including Susan Ramsbottom, Helen Graham, and Kate Keith-Fitzgerald. Kate will also be working in the Technical Services department processing new materials for circulation.
- Anne Woodrum joined Special Collections staff as a Project Archivist. Most recently, she was a Collections and Library Services Assistant at the Harvard Kennedy School Library. In addition, she served as Research and Instruction Librarian (2007-2011) and Special Collections Librarian (2011-2020) at Brandeis University. Anne holds an MA in English from UMass Boston and an MSLIS with an Archives Management concentration from Simmons University.
- The Library said farewell to Royce McGrath, Supervisor of Children's Services, as she left Concord to work in Vermont. The Library is interviewing candidates to fill this vacant position.